

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A system for housing telecommunications equipment, comprising:

a plurality of vertically disposed chassis housing the telecommunications equipment, each chassis having a top that is substantially closed, first and second sides, first and second ends, and a base, wherein the top of each chassis is adapted to receive the base of an adjacent chassis;

at least one vent formed in each chassis adjacent the base, wherein the vent is operable to allow air to enter the chassis; and

wherein the vent is disposed between the base and a portion of the chassis selected from the group consisting of the first side, the second side, the first end, and the second end, and wherein the vent is nonplanar in relation to the portion, wherein the vent is a notched vent member coupled to the base and the portion.

2. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one set of adjacent chassis in the plurality of vertically disposed chassis are separated by a gap that is less than 1.75 inches.

3. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one set of adjacent chassis [in the plurality of vertically disposed chassis are separated by a gap that is substantially zero inches] are stacked such that the top of a first chassis is in direct contact with the base of a second chassis with no gap therebetween apart from the vent of the second chassis.

4. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the vent has a plurality of apertures.

5. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the [vent is an angled vent member coupled to the base and] notched vent member has two or more venting surfaces angling toward the portion.

6. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the [vent is a] notched vent member coupled to the base and the portion has two venting surfaces forming a ninety degree angle.

7. (Amended) A system for housing telecommunications equipment, comprising:

a chassis housing the telecommunications equipment and having a top that is substantially closed, first and second sides, first and second ends, and a base;

at least one vent formed in the chassis adjacent the base, wherein the vent is operable to allow air to enter the chassis; and

wherein the vent is disposed between the base and a portion of the chassis selected from the group consisting of the first side, the second side, the first end, and the second end, and wherein the vent is nonplanar in relation to the portion, wherein the vent is a notched vent member coupled to the base and the portion.

8. (Amended) The system of Claim 7 further comprising:  
a support underneath the base of the chassis, wherein the support is operable to support the chassis.

9. (Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein the chassis and the support are separated by a gap that is less than 1.75 inches exists.

10. (Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein the chassis and the support [are separated by a gap that is substantially zero inches] have no gap therebetween apart from the vent.

11. (Amended) The system of Claim 7, wherein the vent has a plurality of apertures.

12. (Amended) The system of Claim 7, wherein the [vent is an angled vent member coupled to the base and] notched vent member includes two or more venting surfaces angling toward the portion.

13. (Amended) The system of Claim 7, wherein the [vent is a] notched vent member coupled to the base and the portion includes two venting surfaces forming a ninety degree angle.

14. (Amended) A method for housing telecommunications equipment, the method comprising:

vertically disposing a plurality of chassis, each chassis housing the telecommunications equipment and having a top that is substantially closed, first and second sides, first and second ends, and a base, wherein the top of each chassis is adapted to receive the base of an adjacent chassis; and

forming at least one vent in each chassis adjacent the base, wherein the vent is operable to allow air to enter the chassis, and wherein the vent is disposed between the base and a portion of the chassis selected from the group consisting of the first side, the second side, the first end, and the second end, and wherein the vent is nonplanar in relation to the portion, wherein the vent is a notched vent member coupled to the base and the portion.

15. (Amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein vertically disposing a plurality of chassis comprises separating at least one set of adjacent chassis by a gap that is less than 1.75 inches.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein vertically disposing a plurality of chassis comprises [separating] stacking at least one set of adjacent chassis [by a gap that is substantially zero inches] such that there is no gap therebetween apart from the vent.

17. (Amended) The method of Claim 14, further [futher] comprising:  
providing the vent with a plurality of apertures.

18. (Amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein the [vent is an angled vent member coupled to the base and] notched vent member includes two or more venting surfaces angling toward the portion.

19. (Amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein the [vent is a] notched vent member coupled to the base and the portion includes two venting surfaces forming a ninety degree angle.

20. (Amended) A system for housing telecommunications equipment, comprising:

a plurality of vertically disposed chassis, each chassis housing the telecommunications equipment and having a top substantially closed, first and second sides, first and second ends, and a base, wherein the top of each chassis is adapted to receive the base of an adjacent chassis;

a first vent formed in each chassis and having a lower end and an upper end, the lower end coupled to the base and the upper end coupled to the first end of the chassis such that the front vent is nonplanar in relation to the first end;

a second vent formed in each chassis and having a lower end and an upper end, the lower end coupled to the base and the upper end coupled to the second end of the chassis such that the rear vent is nonplanar in relation to the second end; and wherein the first and second vents are operable to allow air to enter the chassis, wherein the first and second vents are notched vent members coupled to the base and the respective first and second ends.

21. (Amended) The system of Claim [22] 20, wherein at least one set of adjacent chassis in the plurality of vertically disposed chassis are separated by a gap that is less than 1.75 inches.

22. (Amended) The system of Claim [22] 20, wherein at least one set of adjacent chassis in the plurality of vertically disposed chassis [are separated by a gap that is substantially zero inches] are stacked such that the top of a first chassis is in direct contact with the base of a second chassis with no gap therebetween apart from the first and second vents of the second chassis.

23. (Amended) The system of Claim [22] 20, wherein the first and second vents each have [vent has] a plurality of apertures.

24. (Amended) The system of Claim [22] 20, wherein the [vent is an angled vent member coupled to the base and] notched vent members include two or more venting surfaces angling toward the [portion] base.

25. (Amended) The system of Claim [22] 20, wherein the [vent is a] notched vent [member] members coupled to the base [and the portion] include two venting surfaces forming a ninety degree angle.